

## **Youth Resource Connections**

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**March 7, 2003**

### **Headlines**

**Rural WIA Learning Exchange Workshop.** The American Youth Policy Forum, the National Youth Employment Coalition, and the U.S. Department of Labor are hosting a WIA Learning Exchange for Youth Systems in Yakima, Washington, April 23-25. Learn from host communities about innovative approaches to respond to recruitment, retention, partnerships building and credentialing. Applications are due March 28. For more information contact Tracy Schmidt at 202-775-9731 or visit: <http://www.dtiassociates.com/wiaexchange>.

**YO!uth with Learning Disabilities Peer-to-Peer Workshop.** The Office of Youth Services at the U. S. Department of Labor is hosting a workshop for YOG grantees, in Seattle, Washington, April 8-10. The workshop provides an opportunity for YOG staff to learn and share strategies about serving youth with disabilities. The forum will also provide resources to support youth in the workplace and education studies. To learn more about the workshop and registration process, contact Christian Techico at 202-693-3599.

**Gates Foundation Awards \$31 Million In Grants to Create a Network of 168 Alternative Schools.** The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced more than \$31 million in grants to create a nationwide network of 168 alternative schools. The schools will serve students failed by traditional high schools. Other partners in this nationwide effort include the Annie E. Casey Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Walter S. Johnson Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. To access the press release including a list of grantees visit: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/education/smallhighschools/announcements/announce-030226.htm>.

**National League of Cities (NLC) offers Menino Fellowship.** The Menino Fellowship offers young people a unique opportunity to learn about and contribute to the ongoing work of the NLC Institute for Youth, Education, and Families. Applications will be accepted during the spring of 2003 for the 2003-2004 Fellowship year. For further information, contact NLC's human resources department at 202-626-3070.

**YouthBuild sponsors Peer Counseling Workshop.** YouthBuild executives will conduct a seminar on effective peer counseling for youth development professionals. Dorothy Stoneman, founder and president of YouthBuild USA will facilitate the session along with John Bell, Director at YouthBuild USA. The workshop will be held in Orlando, Florida, March 6-8. Register on-line at <http://www.youthbuild.org>. For additional information contact Michelle Quinn-Davison at 617-623-9900.

## ***Program Spotlight***

**Youth Council Members participate in National Conference.** Youth representatives from the Lake County (IL) Workforce Investment Board's Youth Council will participate in the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington, DC, March 2-4. They will serve as panelists in a discussion on how to engage youth in developing local workforce development programs and policies. Lake County has experienced success in integrating adults and young participants in their Youth Council. To obtain more information about the activities of this Youth Council, contact Ms. Christin Stevens at 847-377-2224.

**Community Collaboration proves successful at Catawba Workforce Investment Area, South Carolina.** The Catawba local workforce investment area (LWIA) works with several community organizations to provide services to out-of-school youth (OSY). The Academic and Vocational Training Grants for OSY youth offer a case management model to upgrade academic and employment skills. The local program brings together counseling services, local department of juvenile justice staff and has an agreement with Habitat for Humanity to provide GED training and post-secondary training or employment to youth. Participants receive stipends for weekly attendance. For more details on this program, contact Robert Barber at the Catawba LWIA, 803-327-9041.

## ***Opportunities for Youth***

**Reebok Announces Human Rights Awards.** Reebok Human Rights Awards honor young people from the United States and around the world who have made significant contributions to the cause of human rights. Each award recipient will receive \$50,000. For more information visit: <http://www.reebok.com/humanrights>. **Deadline: May 31.**

## ***Funding Opportunities***

**Verizon Foundation Offers Grants.** The Verizon Foundation is accepting applications from South Carolina literacy organizations. Preference will be given to projects that broaden the capacity of the literacy provider through the advancement of technology, serving diverse racial and ethnic communities, people with disabilities, and other underserved populations. \$47,000 will be distributed to nonprofit organizations that provide services in Verizon's South Carolina service territory. For specific information on communities visit the web link Verizon Connects. Applications are available on the Verizon Foundation website visit: <http://foundation.verizon.com/>.

**Deadline: March 14.**

**Fellowships Available for People with Disabilities.** Exchange Pioneers Fellowships, sponsored by the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange, provides opportunities for people with disabilities to gain experience in the international exchange field. \$2,000 fellowships will be awarded to 5 people with disabilities to offset costs associated with completing an internship during the summer of 2003. To obtain an application see the AAPD website.

**Deadline: March 1 for spring internships.**

**Bread and Roses Fund Invites Applications for Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative.** The Bread and Roses Community Fund, a partnership of donors and activists committed to supporting social change in the Delaware Valley, will award grants for criminal justice initiatives. Grants ranging from \$2,500- \$6,000 will be awarded to organizations that address problem areas within America's criminal justice system. Applicant organizations must be located in the Delaware Valley and have 501(c)(3) status. For additional information visit: <http://www.breadrosesfund.org>.

**Deadline: September 14.**

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**BellSouth Foundation offers Grants for Education.** BellSouth will award Opportunity Grants for unsolicited proposals in the following four priority areas: leadership, teaching quality, college-bound minorities, and technology. For more information visit: <http://www.bellsouthfoundation.org>. **Deadline: April 25.**

## **Websites**

**Computers for Youth website.** Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, foundations and corporations provide help to non-profit organizations that place computers and Internet access in the homes of low-income families. To access the site visit: <http://www.cfy.org>.

**Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center On-Line.** The site brings together a wealth of resources ranging from statistical data to instruments designed to measure program effectiveness. To view the contents visit: <http://www.jrsa.org/jjec>

## ***Publications/Reports/Resources***

**Child Trends publishes document about Children in Foster Care.** This resource looks at the challenges and some potential solutions for youth who "age out of foster Care. For more information about this population visit: <http://www.childrentrends.org/PDF/FosterCareRB/pdf>.

**National Youth Service Day (NYSD) Toolkit Available.** National Youth Service Day (NYSD) is April 11-13, 2003. More than 3 million young people from all 50 states and D.C. are expected to participate in local service events and activities that highlight the ways youth improve their communities. Information and resources to help your program and community plan for NYSD are available on the Internet at: <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>.

**Brookings Institute publishes "A Theory of Student Culture and Norms."** Research findings reveal that many teenagers are so afraid of being labeled by their peers that they undermine their own education experience. Contact: The Brookings Institute, Department of Communication at 202-797-6105.

**Employer Voices Prominent in NNSP Report.** A new report by the National Network of Sector Partners (NNSP) includes discussion by a number of employers of what works in the field of education and training. The report argues that employers' voices must be a key ingredient in the debate over welfare reform reauthorization. For more information, visit: <http://www.nedlc.org/nnspp/whatsnew.htm>.

**Basic Skills Programs at Community Colleges.** The Workforce Strategy Center report, "Building Bridges to Colleges and Careers: Contextualized Basic Skills Programs at Community Colleges" examines five community colleges and their staff efforts to teach basic skills to disadvantaged adults. The report highlights the need to reorganize workforce and education systems around "career pathways" that integrate education, training, and work. The authors recommend that community colleges around the country rethink their approach to basic skills education in the context of a larger effort to better connect students to college credentials and rewarding careers. The report may be viewed and downloaded at: [http://workforcestrategy.org/publications/Contextualized basic ed report.pdf](http://workforcestrategy.org/publications/Contextualized_basic_ed_report.pdf).

## ***Calendar of Events***

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**March 16-19, Atlanta, GA.** Southeastern Employment and Training Association/USDOL Financial and Administrative Conference. Contact: Wendell Summerville at 404-562-2095 ext 187.

**March 16-19, Philadelphia, PA.** National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judge, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Contact: 703-549-9222.

**March 19, Washington, DC.** The National Job Corps Association Spring Policy Forum. Contact the National Job Corps Association at 703-548-8535.

**April 7- 8, Philadelphia, PA.** International Conference of Universities, Schools, and Communities. Contact 215-898-0240 or visit: <http://www.childrendefense.org>.

**April 9-11, Arlington, VA.** Child Welfare League of America Sixth Annual Data Conference. Contact: 202-942-0305.

**April 23-26, Minneapolis, MN.** National Youth Leadership Conference. Contact 800-366-6952.

**May 5-7, Los Angeles, CA.** Child Welfare League of America Conference. Contact 617-769-4003.

**May 7. Nationwide.** National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. For more information visit <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/>.

**Youth Resource Connections** is a technical assistance update published bi-weekly by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO), Office of Youth Services (OYS).

**Youth Resource Connections** provides important announcements and information for state and local workforce investment boards, youth councils, youth service providers, Youth Opportunity Grant sites, partners, and others interested in youth development.

**We welcome your input.** Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please contact Anne Stom ([Astom@doleta.gov](mailto:Astom@doleta.gov); 202-693-3377) or Susan Rosenblum ([srosenblum@doleta.gov](mailto:srosenblum@doleta.gov); 202-693-3597).

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